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CAMPAIGN FO INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
first floor, 232 Castlereigh St., Sydney NSW 2000 ph. 261701 January 4

INETENSE FIGHTING IN EAST TIMOR CONTINUES
FRETILIN FORCES KILL94 INDONESIAN SOLDIERS AND WOUND MANY IN 5 DAY BATTLE

In the Lois area from december 22-27 intense fighting took place and Fretilin forces killed 94 Indonesian soldiers and wounded a very great number. Fretilin suffered 3 dead and 2 wounded. It was reported that one automatic rifle and ammunition were captured by the enemy.

The following is a compilation of news from Voice of Maubere and the monitoring of Outpost Radio between December 17 and December 30. It contains some news already released but gives a summary of all actions reported for December.

Lospalos: 15/12/76: 5am Nairepe. Indonesian attack repulsed with 2 Indonesian soldiers killed and many wounded. No Fretilin casualties. Falantil cpatured arms ammunition and uniforms.

Baucau: 16/12/76: Indonesians attempted to advance to Loilu but were repulsed by Fretilin with 19 Indonesian soldiers killed. 17/12/76: Second attempt to advance by Indonesians who captured some civilians and forced them to march ahead of their troops with dummy rifles. The civilians escaped, joining Fretilin. 26 Indonesians killed. No Fretilin casualties. The hospital in Baucau is full of wounded Indonesian soldiers, many dying due to lack of medicines. Civilian population is being brutally treated.

Liquica: 16/12/76: Falantil ambushed Indonesians killing one and wounding some. 17/12/76: 12am five warships anchored off coast and at 5am departed. 17/12/76: one Fretilin soldier killed 7 Indonesian soldiers while they were picking mangoes. 18/12/76: Enemy tried to take Fretilin positions but were repelled with 4 killed. No Fretilin injuries. 19/12/76: Helicopters dropped Christmas cards over Fretilin positions telling population that integration was the best thing for East Timor.

Remexiu: 14/12/76: Town captured by Falantil. In the following days two planes bombed and strafed the area, destroying 6 houses. 16/12/76: Another heavy fight. Falantil killed 7 Indonesians. One Fretilin killed and two wounded. 17/12/76: One Indonesian warship anchored near Hera and heavily bombarded Remexiu area. Lequidoe also bombarded withou damage. 18/12/76: Falantil assaulted an Indonesian encampment killing 22 and wounding a number. The camp was destroyed. 19/12/76: The enemy tried to advance to Samolete but met strong resistance sustaining 15 killed and several wounded. Several Indonesians were captured. The rest fled to Matulaco. 19/12/76: Lulutemer - the southern sector - was bombed and strafed from the air but inflicting no damage. 22/12/76: Large movements of Indonesian warplanes to Dili were reported.

Kupang: Radio Dili now transmits from here, proving that the Indonesian claims to control East Timor are false.

Bazartete: 18/12/76: Falantil killed 3 Indonesians. No Fretilin injury.

Alieu: 24/12/76: Large convoys of army vehicles from Ermera to Alieu carrying war materials. The population reported that these supplies were to reinforce Indonesian troops in Remexiu.

Soibaba: Heavy fighting with 10 Indonesians and one Fretilin killed.

Turiscai: Two planes bombed and strafed but one pig was the only casualty.

Venilale: 21/12/76: Two women and four children escaped from a concentration camp and reported that captured population is suffering rape, starvation and brutality. Indonesian soldiers do not want to fight and want to go home. The officers are refusing their requests. 24/12/76: In uaioli the enemy attempted to steal honey and Falantil attacked them, killing 8.

Fatobela: 18/12/76: Fretilin ambushed Indonesian soldiers, killing 11.

River Somasse: One Indonesian soldier killed.

Manatutu: 17/12/76: Enemy assaulted Fretilin position but was repulsed with 3 dead and 1 wounded. 16/12/76: At Ai Daclaran the enemy assaulted a Fretilin position in Raicolar with 3 Indonesians killed and 4 wounded.

Lois: 25/12/76: 2jet planes bombed and strafed the locality. 26/12/76: Lois area bombed from the air. 22-27/12/76: Heavy fighting in locality. Falantil killed 94 Indonesian soldiers and wounded many. 3 of our comrades were killed and 2 wounded. One automatic rifle and some ammunition captured.

Betano: 22/12/76: A Fretilin patrol killed 5 Indonesian soldiers near the customs house. 2 Fretilin soldiers were wounded.

Uatulari, uatu Carbau, Ossu, Quelicai: 19/12/76: Indonesian planes dropped Christmas cards. This act was rejected with contempt by Maubere People.

Kuda-Mano: 5/12/76: Enemy advanced to this town supported by two tanks and artillery, but glorious Falantil repulsed them, killing 2. The captured population was taken to a concentration camp where they are starving. The women are being raped by Indonesian soldiers and subjected to other barbarities. The price of bread is now 30 escudos. Many children and old people are dying of malnutrition.

Railaco: 2/12/76: In Samalete village, Fretilin forces killed 2 Indonesian soldiers and wounded 4. No Fretilin injuries. 4/12/76: Falantil attacked Railaco, killing 4 Indonesians. 24/12/76: The enemy supported by artillery forced civilians to march ahead of them carrying dummy rifles. The enemy advanced on 3 fronts and met strong resistance. 26 Indonesians were killed and many wounded. No Fretilin wounded. 25/12/76: Fretilin forces were ambushed by Indonesian soldiers and one comrade was killed.

Atsabe: 25/12/76: 2 automatic weapons and some ammunition captured. Heavy fighting. Fretilin forces attacked the enemy and wounded many. In revenge, the Indonesians burnt down all the houses. 27/11/76: 5 Indonesians were killed and some captured along with arms and ammunition.

Ossu: 12/12/76: Fretilin ambushed Indonesian soldiers, killing 2. In revenge, the enemy bombarded with heavy artillery.

Fatubesse: 7/12/76: Indonesian soldiers attacked with heavy mortars and bazookas, destroying a timber store.

Namulou: 7/12/76: Indonesians burnt down two houses.

Namata: 7/12/76: Indonesian soldiers burnt down three houses but there was no injury to Maubere people.

Cailaco: 3/12/76: Several positions - Fretilin killed 9 Indonesian soldiers. 9/12/76: In Leimea Craic Fretilin killed 8 Indonesian soldiers. 13/12/76: In Loelaco, 6 Indonesians killed. In Leimea Sorim, 9 Indonesian soldiers were killed by Fretilin. 13-14/12/76: At Samara between Maliana and Cailaco, Freti lin killed 89 Indonesian soldiers. Fretilin suffered 3 wounded and 8 dead. Three babies were killed by a bomb.

Ermera: 5/12/76: Fretilin forces invaded Indonesian encampment killing 17 and wounding an officer. Several maortars and ammunition and medicine were captured.

Over the holiday period in Australia, the struggle in East Timor has received some good coverage. On Thursday December 30, ABC Radio played a recording of Alarico Fernandes' voice monitored on Outpost Radio frequency by Darwin CIET. ABC television in Darwin also used the tape and showed a photograph of Alarico. The monitoring is going well in Darwin both on Outpost Radio frequencies and another frequency which Alarico has assigned for transmission during the day to the Darwin listening post. The first message monitored after the establishment of the receiver in Darwin was on 22/12/76. When asked, Telecom says that no messages have been sent from Dili. We now know this to be absolutely false. There have been greetings sent to all ministers and comrades in Maputo over the radios. There have been many messages from Voice of Maubere to pass on to East Timorese refugees in Australia and elsewhere.

Funds are still being received for the Let East Timor Speak Fund. The radio receiver is now working reasonably well and news is available to journalists and others interested in going to the radio room at the Miscellaneous Workers Union office in Darwin. Further donations will be necessary to maintain the defiance which is being successfully carried out against the Fraser government and the Indonesian generals.

Reports in the Age and the Sydney Morning Herald recently that another secret illegal transmitter is to be set up soon are incoreect; Brian Manning has denied that he said any more than was in previous press releases: that the next step in PUBLIC DEFIANCE is to set up a public transceiver, operated by CIET for the purpose of aid agencies, refugees in Australia, and the press, making enquiries directly to the government in the Democratic Republic of East Timor. This transceiver will also be supported publicly by Australian supporters as was the public receiver recently established.

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CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
1st floor, 232 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, 2000. Phone 61.7089
January 12, 1977.

PRESS RELEASE.....INDONESIAN FRAUD IN EAST TIMOR BUDGET

The $15m aid program for East Timor announced by President Suharto last week (Sydney Morning Herald 7.1.77) is a ridiculous lie, Radio Maubere, the National Radio of the Democratic Republic of East Timor said last Friday, January 7.

Alarico Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security, said that Newsweek magazine had publicly disclosed in recent weeks that Suharto himself takes a 10-15% cut in many cases. Because of this, Suharto banned Newsweek in Indonesia, and announced measures to be taken against corruption.

This is a joke because Suharto and his wife run the biggest cover-up operation of all in Indonesia, at the same time "bluffing extra foreign aid to pay Indonesia's barbarous, fascist, capitalist debt", the Minister said.

In the broadcast directed to **Australia, Mr. Fernandes** emphasised that the time was coming close when the Indonesian soldiers would refuse to fight in East Timor any longer, and the Indonesian people would rise up to punish Suharto and the generals.

In the broadcast directed to the Indonesian soldiers, special attention was given to the 721st Battalion based at Ermera, and in East Timor since May 1976, Mr. Fernandes pointed out to these soldiers from the Celebes, Sulawese, Sumatra and Surabaya that they were deeply demoralised and suffering heavy casualties because they were fighting the whole united people of East Timor who wished to be free of colonial domination. It was time the Indonesian soldiers recognised the justice of this wish and the political reality of their own exploitation in Indonesia.

HEAVY FIGHTING EAST AND WEST OF DILI

Extensive fighting is continuing on the north and south coasts where Indonesian troops are trying to break through Fretilin positions close to their few garrison towns and villages.

Here is a summary of the main news broadcast from December 31 to January 7.

At Motaulun, near Liquica on the north coast on December 28, Fretilin killed 27 Indonesian troops. The Indonesian forces were reported to be revolting, demanding to be returned home. One of the Indonesian helicopters crash landed at Liquica on January 6,

Around Maubara, further along the north coast, heavy mortars and rockets were being used by the Indonesian troops trying to clear a road to their beleagured forced at Lois. In a battle at Lois from December 22-27, 94 Indonesian soldiers were killed and many wounded, with 3 Fretilin soldiers killed and 3 wounded. Indonesian soldiers attempted to use an ex traditional chief to bribe the local population of Vatuborrau to surrender. The people strongly repudiated this cheap approach and are determined to defeat the Indonesians. In an action on a farm near Maubara on December 24, Indonesia's attempts to capture the farm were repelled and 30 were killed and several wounded.

On December 29 at Lois, a further 7 Indonesian soldiers were killed. Next day, the area was bombarded by warplanes. On 31st, Fretilin forces drove the Indonesian soldiers from the village of Darupau, killing 14 of the enemy, and killed 3 Indonesian soldiers at Noropu. Indonesian ground forces at Lois remain surrounded and cut off from help.

At Altobarrique(?) on 30th December, 1976, Fretilin forces killed 14 Indonesian soldiers and captured many prisoners. Several automatic rifles and medicine were captured.

Laga, east of Baucau, is the scene of another recent battle where 129 Indonesian soldiers were killed between December 26-31. One of these actions was on December 29, when Indonesian soldiers, with 2 tanks and mortars, were ambushed by Fretilin on the road to Baguia. 64 Indonesian soldiers were killed and a great number wounded. Fierce fighting was reported there on JaNUary 5, by Radio Maubere.

At Venilale, south of Baucau, Fretilin forces helped some of the captured population to escape the concentration camp on December 30. Radio Maubere on 7.1.77 reported that the captured population at Betano on south coast is starving and does not have medicine. Two hundred old people and children have died so far, it said. Heavy bombardment and skirmishes took place on 30-31 December around Betano, with 6 Indonesian soldiers killed and no Fretilin casualties.

In Dili, there are a great number of wounded Indonesian soldiers who are in revolt because of the poor medical care available. They want to return home, Radio Maubere says. The local population is starving and there is no medicine for them. They face extermination through high prices, forced labour, and sickness.

(MORE COMPLETE TRANSCRIPTS AND TAPES OF VOICE OF MAUBERE AVAILABLE FROM SYDNEY CIET OFFICE).

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STATEMENT, DARWIN, MONDAY 10.1.77

The C.I.E.T., Darwin, monitored the required frequency on both 8.1.77, and in response to a similar message on Radio Maubere on Sunday 9.1.77, again on today, Monday 10.1.77.

However we cannot record the messages sent as the signal is too weak at that time of day. They should be sent between 9-10 a.m. to be most effective.

It has come to our attention that Indonesia is using or about to use delayed action anti-personnel bombs that are dropped by parachute, and explode on investigating personnel. We strongly protest this further inhumane action by Indonesia.

The Timor campaign welcomes support from people, with time, energy or money. Has anyone a caravan to lend for use within Darwin for a few months?

RNWS

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CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 January 21

INDONESIAN FORCES WITHDRAW FROM TEN VILLAGES ;
321 KILLED AT LOIS RIVER BATTLE

Indonesian forces had withdrawn from ten small villages near the town of MAUBARA on the north-west coast, Radio Maubere, the national radio of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, reported on January 16. The broadcast was monitored in Darwin. Tapes of the broadcast are available for inspection at the above address.

The followingis a summary of the news carried on Radio Maubere January 16:

MAUBARA: The enemy has withdrawn from BABWATE, BARBAZAE, TAEBAER (?), FATOHAE (FATOBAE ?) , ILHOE, BAGAESH (?), MAZURAKE, LITOLOE, and BIKOSH (?). They retreated to Loes River where they are blocked by Fretilin forces.

LOIS RIVER : (west of Maubara) Since the enemy on December 22 tried to cross the Lois River to reach Vatoboro (?) to January 10, Fretilin forces have eliminated 321 Indonesian soldiers . Six Fretilin guerrillas have been killed and three wounded. On January 10, two Indonesian warships heavily shelled the Maubara area and the following day two jet fighters strongly bombed the area.

In Maubara area from January 8-11 , Fretilin forces eliminated 36 Indonesian soldiers. One Fretilin guerrilla died and two were wounded. Large amounts of war materials were captured.

RAILACO: Indonesian forces tried to progress between Aileu and Railaco near GORAI (?) and LAKLUMAR but met strong resistance and were beaten off.

AILEU: Indonesian helicopters seen flying from Dili to Same

BAUCAU: 12 Indonesian soldiers killed at LOILOBO and many wounded.

The following is a summary of Radio Maubere broadcast of January 9 :

ATSABE: January 7: Seven Indonesians killed including an officer Babu Basu (??) One automatic rifle and much ammunition was captured.The next day a helicopter came to evacuate the dead and wounded.

OSSU: Enemy tried to take a Fretilin position, but were defeated and three Indonesian soldiers were killed. Rest ran away to Manubai (?)

LOSPALOS: Dedember 19-27 : Eleven Indonesians killed in several operations. No Fretilin losses . December 23-31: enemy used mortar fire to shell outskirts of village.

BOBONARO : Warship bombed area also mortar bombing in Suai area.
(Further news in English inaudible -- will present translation of Portuguese read news in later press release)

NOTE: a question mark in brackets after name of a village indicates we are not sure this is correct spelling, as atmospheric interference made it difficult to hear.

NOTE NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER : 81-7089

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 January 21 1977

INDONESIAN FORCES AT LOIS RIVER
DESTROYED

The following message was received on the public radio receiver in Darwin on 5270 khz at 10.15am on January 20 :

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR -- FRETILIN
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY

TO : Campaign for Independent East Timor and 11 other addresses:

East Timor is still fighting armed Indonesian criminal war aggression. Every day Indonesian war aircraft are continually dropping bombs and malingalina(??) territory, burning out houses and property.

Day and night Indonesian warships and heavy artillery are continuously shelling the territory. In Indonesian concentration camps , the captured population are being massacred and tortured and the young girls and youths suffer the worst violations. This is the same in East Timor produced by the murderous Suharto and his dogkeepers in their desperate front to incorporate East Timor into Indonesia.

Fighting is going on throughout the territory.
Close to BOBONARO village,/Fretilin forces in several places have killed 10 Indonesian soldiers and captured one automatic weapon.

In the proximity of AINARO village on January 8 intense shooting went on and Fretilin forces have eliminated 15 Indonesian soldiers and wounded a lot and captured some ammunition and medicine.

Bazartete area: January 15, Fretilin forces killed 15 Indonesian soldiersin counter-offensive action.

The enemy blocked in LOIS(RIVER) and faced with crucuial situation have fled away by night with the slogan " Save each one as he can". Many of the poor Indonesian soldiers have died submerging in the Lois River waters.The poor Indonesian soldiers, beloved sons of the brother Indonesian people, are ingloriously dying in East Timor, just only to appease the shameful expediency of the sanguinary Suharto.

Independence or death. To resist is to win. Armed struggle continues.

Respectuflly yours,

ALARICO JORGE FERNANDES, Minister for Information and National Security
January 20, 1977

NOTE: Tex reproduced as read. Where difficulty in understanding due to poor reception, question marks in brackets follow. Where words have been added by CIET to aid comprehension, these are included in brackets.

The Darwin public radio receiver was established to monitor messages from East Timor after Telecom ,under government instructions , refused from November 20 1976 to pass on messages received. The public receiver is financed by donations from supporters of East Timor's right to speak.

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 January 21

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PRESS BACKGROUNDER

INDONESIANS DEFEATED ON LOIS RIVER : AN EXAMPLE OF FRETILIN GUERRILLA WARFARE AT A HIGH LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

The news of the final destruction of the large Indonesian force on the LOIS RIVER, carried in the message from Alarico Fernandes received on January 20, gives the li to Indonesia's Ambassador to UN, Anwar Sani's claim, that Indonesian forces are being withdrawn because Fretilin is "no longer a problem". Like previous propaganda statements of this sort, it seeks to cover up the major defeats the Indonesian forces are suffering in East Timor, and their escalation of the war.

It is true of course that Indonesian forces are being withdrawn all the time, but this is simply because discontent among Indonesian soldiers is at such a high level that each tour of fighting duty in East Timor lasts only six or three months for each unit. The Indonesian generals are forced to carry out a constant renewal of their forces in East Timor, introducing into the battle for the first time troops from outlying islands other than Java. The constant changeover is financially costly, and militarily catastrophic : forces sent to a fighting area for only three or six months take time to settle in and when they are settled in, see the end of their visit to East Timor approaching, and are unwilling to risk their lives.

The battle of LOIS RIVER is one of the major battles so far in the East Timor liberation war, and therefore deserves some close attention.

Indonesian forces first reached the LOIS RIVER, which is on the north-west coast, 20 kms from the border, on November 28,1975 -- the day of proclamation of the Democratic Republic of East Timor. The plan of the Indonesian forces was to push over the river ,and along the north coast to Dili, the capital. However, the Fretilin forces on the LOIS RIVER held them back, and on December 7, the Indonesians were forced to launch their full-scale air and sea attack on Dili, which marked the beginning of the fullscale invasion.

The Indonesians were held at the LOIS RIVER throughout the 1975-76 wet season, when this river, the biggest in East Timor, is in full flood and impossible to cross.It is unclear whether in the following dry season, the Indonesian forces were able to cross the LOIS RIVER. However, there were frequent reports last year of Fretilin forces inflicting casualties on the enemy there.

However,on December 22 1976, with the LOIS RIVER in full flood, the Indonesian forces attempted to go from the LOIS to Vatoboro near Maubara, but were forced to return to the LOIS where by January 10, 321 Indonesian soldiers had been killed. Then, according to the January 20 message , the remaining forces tried to escape by night ,each trying to save his own skin, with many drowning in the Lois.

Although it is not detailed in Fretilin reports, it is clear that the Indonesian forces were surrounded by Fretilin forces ("blocked" according to Radio Aubere January 16) and with their backs to the river. Unable to break out of the Fretilin encirclement, and suffering huge losses under Fretilin attacks and ambushes, they finally lost all sense of discipline and made a desperate attempt to escape.

This battle, lasting from December 22 to around January 20, could have only been carried out by Fretilin if they had massed a much larger force than the

Indonesians had there (which ,given their high casualties must have been over 500). This gives the lie to claims made by JIO (in a leaked document published in the Canberra Times late last year), that Fretilin were unable to concentrate their forces. To fight a month-long battle such as that at LOIS RIVER means that the guerrilla war in East Timor is at a much higher level of development than is generally recognised. While it is still following a basic defensive strategy, of not fighting a positional war, Falintil forces are still able, at a well-prepared and judged moment ,to concentrate large number of forces to wipe out large enemy camps and positions.

This strategy is very well outlined in an interview with Rogerio Lobato, Minister of National Defence in the Democratic Republic of East Timor, to be published shortly.

The battle of LOIS RIVER is paralleled by the battles around RAILACO late last year. Railaco, on a treacherous road west of the capital Dili, was the area in which Australian commandos in World War II inflicted thousands of casualties on the Japanese . Fretilin reports in the last few months of 1976 documented the Indonesian attempts to take Railaco. Progressing up the mountain road from Tibar (only 12 kms west from Dili) the Indonesians first suffered huge casualties around the forests of NASSUTA. Then progressing through to Railaco, casualties for their whole campaign totally over 600 according to a message on Radio Maubere.

According to latest reports ,the enemy are still trying to reach Railaco, although other reports suggest they may be in the village. However, within Fretilin's strategy as outlined by Rogerio Lobato, the aim of the present military-political strategy of Fretilin is not to hold positions or villages when it would be impossible to do so, but to first, inflict the highest possible number of casualties on the enemy, second to capture as much war material as possible from them, and third to preserve their own forces, engage in production and to limit casualties to the minimum possible.

Seen in this strategy, Fretilin has won some great victories in recent weeks. The recapture of Remixio and Tibar,both less than 20kms from Dili, and the defeats and enormous casualties suffered by the Indonesians at LOIS and RAILACO (to name only the biggest battles) indicate the success of this strategy.

The Indonesians have also launched in recent weeks a number of large offensives, have taken villages, remaining in a few and withdrawing soon after from most. Because it is not fighting a positional war, Fretilin forces stage a fighting retreat before massive enemy attacks, and then concentrate on surrounding and eliminating in short, sharp attacks,usually at night, those Indonesian forces left to garrison villages taken. Often, because the Indonesians find only empty villages when they arrive, they themselves withdraw immediately, after burning and destroying houses and crops, aware that they are unable to hold such villages without deploying very large forces there .(In villages such as Aileu and Maubisse, according to very reliable sources, the Indonesians put garrisons of over 500 troops, well entrenched and protected by heavy artillery. In smaller villages garrisons of 200-300 are in constant danger of elimination by massed Fretilin forces three or four times larger).

The battle of LOIS RIVER shows that Suharto can never win the war in East Timor, which is now his Vietnam, and will prove to be his own graveyard.

--- Denis Freney, January 21, 1977

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 Phone 617089 January 26

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P.124

PRESS RELEASE

VERY HEAVY CASUALTIES SUFFERED BY
INDONESIANS IN THREE DIFFERENT AREAS; TANKS DESTROYED

The extent of Indonesian casualties in the present wet season has been dramatically highlighted in reports over Radio Maubere, the National Radio of the Democratic Republic of East Timor , in recent weeks.

In MAUBARA, on the north-west coast of East Timor, Indonesian forces launched an offensive into the mountain villages south of this town, in late December. After having penetrated some miles inland on mountain tracks, and taken some dozen villages, the Indonesian troops faced heavy counter-attacks and ambushes from Fretilin forces. Meanwhile, on the nearby Lois River, a large Indonesian force was surrounded, and finally wiped out (see press release, January 21).

Radio Maubere of January 12 (delayed in the post) listed five separate battles in which a total of 175 Indonesians were killed from January 3 to 10 (Railaga village on January 5 -- 36 Indonesians killed ; Vasuba : January 6-7 -- 60 Indonesians killed and several captured, with much war material ; Bolobero: January 3 to 5 -- 63 Indonesians killed ; Raimata January 9-10 -- 14 Indonesians killed ; Sahate : January 10 -- 12 Indonesians killed). Fretilin suffered no casualties in any of these battles.

By January 19, Radio Maubere could report that the Indonesians had fled away from all areas around Maubara, back to the town, where they were being strongly attacked by Fretilin forces ,and were desperately shelling the outskirts of the village.

At QUELICAI, south of the central-eastern coastal village of LAGA, on January 3, Fretilin forces ambushed an enemy convoy, destroying " several tanks, one armoured car. Thirty-six Indonesian soldiers were killed." Important documents were also captured, along with large amounts of ammunition, rifles and a machine gun. On one Indonesian officer killed, a photo of him with his two children was found. " Why are you fighting in East Timor ?" Fretilin asked over the radio to the Indonesian troops. Many Indonesians were wounded. (Radio Maubere report, January 12).

At ERMERA, Radio Maubere of January 19 reported, 200 Indonesian soldiers had been killed in fighting since January 1. The Indonesian soldiers were divided and highly demoralised, Radio Maubere said.

----- ANALYSIS

In the LOIS RIVVER, MAUBARA, ERMERA and QUELICAI areas alone, 732 Indonesian soldiers have been killed since January 1 to 20 (in LOIS from December 22). If we take the month December 20-January 20 throughout the country, and the very detailed accounts of small ambushes and engagements, the total is close to 1000 Indonesians killed and a higher number wounded.

From reports so far received, it is clear that in mid- and early December, the Indonesian generals launched offensives throughout the country, to "consolidate" areas of control, and to take new area, or recapture area retaken by Fretilin. It was a curious time to launch an offensive -- at the peak of the wet season. Indonesian forces made a massive attack in the Maubara area, to consolidate an area of control in the mountains south of the town. They also tried to penetrate

south of LAGA, down the road to BAGUIA, [illegible] 4
In the southern border area, they attempted to recapture a string of villages only a few kilometres from the border, where they had been driven out in October-November. In the ATSABE area, they tried to consolidate some villages off tthe road that had been taken earlier in November.

As we have seen above, their attacks around MAUBARA have ended in disaster, with them not only losing villages taken in their offensive, but also seeing their large force on the LOIS RIVER wiped out.

Their attack south of LAGA to BAGUIA was also repulsed and Radio Maubere on January 12 reported that fierce fighting continues around LAGA with the enemy shelling the surroundings of the village heavily.

Around ATSABE, the enemy still controls some villages around ATSABE, but according to Radio Maubere on January 12, the enemy was forced to withdraw from "two localities" after a battle on January 5 in which 9 Indonesians were killed and much war material captured.

The destruction of "several tanks" at Quelicai on January 3 indicates clearly that Fretilin now has the ability and techniques to destroy heavy enemy armour.

On the border area, the Indonesians have so far failed to recapture any of the villages taken by Fretilin. An attack on Fatomean on December 24 was repulsed (Radio Maubere Jan. 12) At COVALIMA ,an attack was defeated with heavy casualties.

As an alternate tactic, the Indonesians are concentrating on destroying as many houses as possible, and laying the countryside waste. Although a "scorched earth" policy seems to have been one followed throughout the invasion by the Indonesian generals, it is now one followed more energetically, particularly now newly-purchased American fighter jets are taking part in the shelling.

But such a strategy, also hinted at in the article by Michael Richardson (Sydney morning Herald, January 21) :" Sources say Indonesia's decision to reduce the number of troops in East Timor is a sign of Jakarta's confidence that it can at least contain the activities of the anti-Indonesian guerrilla forces while pressing ahead with development programs in the main centres of population under Indonesian control." Of course, the "main centres of population" have always been the mountains not the towns . There is no evidence of troops being withdrawn from East Timor, but "consolidation" and "development programs" are not a "sign of confidence" but of weakness -- an admission that Fretilin cannot be defeated.

The heavy blows the generals have suffered in the past month shows this even more clearly.

OTHER NEWS ON RADIO MAUBERE JAN 12:
LOSPALOS: 30/12/76--HOES --enemy tried to take territory --repulsed.6 enemy killed, many wounded.Two Fretilin comrades wounded. January 2: One enemy killed, one Fretilin guerrilla wounded but not seriously . January 7: Buno : three Indonesians killed. Morale of population and Falintil very high.
OSSU: Jan.8: Barita area: enemy tried to ambush Fretilin, but 10 Indonesians killed. Fretilin later counterattacked and killed two more enemy.No Fretilin casualties.
OTHER NEWS RADIO MAUBERE JANUARY 19:LEBOS· enemy shelling daily,destroying many houses.
MALIANA: enemy suffering heavy casualties.Captured population starving and women being raped.Many of captured population helped to escape by Fretilin forces.
BOBONARO: Enemy suffer ten dead in ambush. One Fretilin guerrilla killed.
AINARO: January 1 to 8: heavy mortar shelling by enemy,but no damage. In one ambush Fretilin killed 18 Indonesian soldiers and captured much ammunition.